The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1919. Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1919, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

WHOLE NO. 1987 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1949 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 39, NO. 19

Rutz Urges German Trade Democracy; Warns Against Over-Optimism of Big 4

Berlin.—An American Federation of Labor official, speaking in German over a national radio hookup, warned the military government here recently that its policies must seek not only establishment of political democracy in Germany but industrial democracy as well.

Henry Rutz, special European representative for the AFL, addressing a labor-sponsored meeting of some 800,000 persons in the Place of Freedom, asserted:

"Germany can become and remain a peaceful cooperative link in European community of nations if the former militarists who assisted in the waging the 2 world wars are not maneuvered back into their former positions of power."

He cautioned that "no industrial or financial magnates who have been friends and supporters of German militarism and fascism" are authorized to participate in the authority which is to be established for the Ruhr area. The AFL has requested that trade unions receive equal representation with management in the composition of these boards.

Touching on the forthcoming Big Four negotiations on problems relating to Germany, Rutz warned against over-optimism, declaring:

"No final German settlement can be agreed to which fails to guarantee basic safeguards for the development of democracy within a unified Germany as well as guarantees against Russian pressure from without."

Rutz also discussed the impending conferences relative to the proposed organization of a new democratic world federation of free trade unions. Although the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions was "doomed" by the withdrawal of British and American representation, he said, "nevertheless like a fifth column of Soviet dictatorship is still playing a very active and evil sweep as ever in sabotaging world reconstruction and in promoting social and political chaos."

He emphasized that a "strong international trade union movement is necessary to rally the millions of workers opposed to WFTU tactics," adding:

"In such a new world organization the German trade union movement should be accepted as an equal first class partner, free from all of Germany's past associations with the free workers of Europe and the free workers of the world, in the establishment of world peace, social justice, and real international security and welfare."

Of the Atlantic Pact, Rutz stated:

"The AFL and the other trade union federations of democratic countries wholeheartedly endorsed the Atlantic Pact. Russia's conduct in Czechoslovakia, which has violated every tent of the United Nations charter, makes an alliance of the remaining free European nations necessary if world peace is to be maintained.

"Russia from now on will not be able to deal with one country at a time. From now on Russia and the free country will be dealt with as an act of aggression against all the signatories."

Rutz's speech was warmly received. Other speakers, representing Berlin's 3 democratic political parties, promised to continue the battle against totalitarianism. The AFL rally, in honor of May Day, was conducted by Ernst Tremel, Communist Trade Union Federation of Berlin.

In another part of the city, the Berlin Police who remain anti-Communist sector labor federation, claimed a turnout of more than 200,000 in its demonstration. Informed sources reported that many were actually forced to attend. Some were promised extra milk if they would shriek extra textile and shoe coupons, specially printed for the event.

Washington.—While the employment situation in manufacturing is still not clear, total employment should rise substantially during the latter months of 1949, according to Robert C. Goodwin, director of the Bureau of Employment Security.

He said that a March survey of employer opinion on future labor needs, coupled with more recent checks in agriculture and construction, indicated that nonmanufacturing industries affected by seasonal factors would exert the major upward influence in the expected spring and summer employment rise.

Employer opinion was mixed on the outlook for manufacturing, with 31 labor market areas expecting only minor fluctuations in employment, 22 foreseeing advances in substantial increases and 10 expecting declines.

Mr. Goodwin said that while Census Bureau figures showed a drop in unemployment of 151,000 in April to 3,016,000, current indications were that idleness in the next few months would exceed the average for the corresponding month in 1948. The Census Bureau estimated April employment at 57,210,000, an increase of 172,000 over March.

Total Employment Upturn Predicted; Factory Job Situation Still Unsettled

"A much sharper rise in total employment than is now indicated would be necessary to bring unemployment down to last year's exceptionally low level," Mr. Goodwin said. "This is true not only because the number of unemployed is currently about 800,000 greater than last year but also because of the increases that occur in the civilian labor force.

Upwards of a million young persons entered the labor force last year, he added, and hundreds of thousands of veterans and other young men leave schools and colleges in the next few weeks and seek work.

A summary of March area labor market reports indicated that the outlook for manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries would be influenced largely by seasonal factors and by marketing and price developments.

"All areas foresee brisk gains in construction," Mr. Goodwin said, "although peak seasonal levels will probably be well below last year. Trade employment will soar though expected to rise seasonally. Relatively minor changes will occur in nonmanufacturing activities."

Federal Loans Urged to Help Co-op Housing

Washington.—A bill to provide direct federal loans to meet the housing needs of middle-income families was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Thomas fr Burke of Ohio.

The bill would establish a program of direct federal loans, at low interest rates, to cooperatives and other types of nonprofit corporations and organizations who would provide housing for rental or for sale to members.

Designed to aid families which cannot afford to buy or rent decent housing, the bill has the support of many labor, veterans' and religious groups. It would not supplant or alter any of the existing system of mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act but would supplement such programs.

A Cooperative Housing Administration, within the Housing and Home Finance Agency and headed by a Cooperative Housing Commissioner is provided for.

Loans would not exceed 90 per cent of the appraised value of the housing projects and would be due and payable in full prior to the going federal rate of interest at the time the loans are made. The Cooperative Housing Commissioner would be authorized to issue and have outstanding at any one time, notes and obligations not in excess of $1,000,000,000. This limitation would be increased by an additional $1,000,000,000 on July 1 of each succeeding year, beginning 1954.

While not restricted to veterans, the program would give first preference to veterans or families of veterans.

Labor Supports Blood Program

Philadelphia.—Organized labor here is boosting the Red Cross' blood-donor program.

Joseph A. McDonough, business manager of the Central Labor Union, Henry F. Shipherd, president of the Philadelphia Industrial Union Council (CIO), and W. B. Woodward, president of the Philadelphia Local of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, joined in the plea for more donors to the Blood Center.

"Labor is solidly behind the blood program," they said. "Few projects will be more beneficial to labor than a working blood program such as the Red Cross has established. Too often in the past we have been compelled to pay high fees for blood when it was needed. That situation must never exist.

Each factory, plant and union local must immediately establish machinery its own blood recruitment chairman in cooperation with the Blood Center and Red Cross, they said.

"Now that we have the Blood Center, we must see to it that it carries out its objectives. It should also be give blood free to everyone, regardless of race, color, creed or financial status," the union leaders said. "Everybody will do its share to make it succeed."

SENATE APPROVES PROBES ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Washington.—The Senate authorized a broad Congressional inquiry to duct a study of the "spread" between prices farmers receive for their products and what consumers have to pay for food.

The Senate approved a resolution to give the Agriculture Committee full investigate economic stabilization, banking, credit, investment and the trade problems of small business. Senator Ellender, Democrat, of Louisiana, committee chairman, intends to use the resolution to study the "spread" inquiry.

The Senate also voted to allow $30,000, if the House agreed and authorized the Banking Committee to study investments, unemployment, low-income families and monetary policies.

NUMBER OF FACTORY JOBS NEARLY 50% OVER '39 LEVEL

Washington.—The number of production workers in United States factories rose in the 1947-48 period, from nearly 1939 to 11,900,000 in 1947, an increase of about 50 percent, The Census Bureau reports.

Total wages of these workers increased from $9,000,000,000 to $35,000,000,000 in the same time, a rise of 289 percent.

The bureau summarized data obtained in the 1947 census of manufacturers. It said reports from 241,000 manufacturing companies showed the value added to materials by the companies' operations totaled about $74,000,000,000 in 1947, more than double the comparable figure of $24,000,000,000 in 1939.

FOREIGN AID BUYING TOPS 5 BILLION LEVEL

Washington. — Foreign aid purchases totalling $5,000,000,000 have been authorized under the Marshall plan, the European Cooperation Administration announced.

Some $396,076,000 in procurement authorizations were granted during the week for finished goods and such raw materials as metals, oil, chemicals, machinery and foodstuffs.

These recent buying-order approvals were issued to Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, the American, British and French zones of Germany, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy, Indonesia, Holland, Norway, Trieste and Britain.

Labor, Farmers Endorse Health Plan; Crukshank Hails Its Practical Approach

Washington.—Spokesmen for organized labor and the nation's farmers joined forces in support of President Truman's health program to make available enough medical services to go around and to see that everybody has a chance to obtain these services.

Appearing with Representative Andrew J. Biemiller of Wisconsin on a radio broadcast over the Mutual Broadcasting System network arranged by the Democratic National Committee were Nelson H. Cruikshank, the AFL's director of social insurance activities, and James Patton, president of the National Farmers' Union.

Summing up the advantages of the Truman plan, Mr. Cruikshank praised it as the "most practical program which has ever been presented to meet the health needs of the nation." He said:

"Its practical first because it is designed to take in nearly everybody. This is something entirely new.

"The real issue is not, as opponents have tried to describe it, an issue between a compulsory and a voluntary system. The issue is between a public and inclusive program as opposed to private selective plan. Twenty years of experience in this country have shown that the private plans can never meet the needs. We have enrolled 100,000 people in the United States have the comprehensive health plan which is provided when the President's program is enacted.

"Secondly, it is practical because it meets the whole health problem. The opponents of public health insurance have said that it represents a fine ideal but it cannot be put into operation in this country because we do not have enough health facilities—not enough doctors, not enough hospitals—and we do not have enough doctors, nurses, dentists and other technical personnel needed to supply the needs. The President's program meets all of these needs into account. It calls for aid to the medical schools, and also provides for increased aid for the construction of hospital and other facilities where needed.

"The program also calls for an increase in the amount of federal grants for public health services both legal and national.

"The President's program is a typical American program as it relies on the principle of mutual self help. We have proved the soundness of this approach in other social insurances such as our federal old-age and survivors insurance, workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance."

Mr. Patton ridicuied the charges that the President's health program is "socialistic" or that it will encourage political medicine," and declared:

Speaking as a representative of farmers, I say that the adoption of the 10 kind of large-scale health program for which the President has asked would be one of the greatest booms to farmers in all of their history."

Concluding the broadcast, Representative Biemiller declared that the many advantages for the nation which would flow from adoption of the Truman plan. He said:

"It would be better and more efficient than the health of our citizens. Secondly, we are right now one of the richest nations in the world and it is reason for us to be blind to our responsibility to our fellowmen for social progress.

"We have awful inadequacies and startling inequalities in our social complex and we must move to solve our health standards and facilities. To do this we have made a start in progress during the last 17 years of Democratic administration. But this "Some" progress is not enough for American people.

"The introduction of the National Health Act is a step forward—a step other step along the road of progress which will mean more physicians, medical researchers and technicians; more hospitals and better distribution of medical centers; a step toward combating the nation's greatest killers and all. In other words, the goal is complete health and medical facilities for all the people."

Democratic Unions Ask Aid of European Bureau

By ADRIENNE TASSLER

European Correspondent for the AFL News Service

Brussels.—Leaders of hundreds of free trade unions in Europe look to the AFL's European Bureau in Brussels, Belgium, for encouragement, advice—and, at times, assistance.

Hungry for news about the United States and especially its labor movement, scientists from Tunisia to Finland constantly send information-seeking letters into the bureau at 33 Avenue de L'Armee. They write in German, Dutch, Flemish, Hungarian, French and Italian.

Most often they seek news about American labor, heretofore extremely limited—although propaganda from the Soviet Union has continued. They ask for the "News Letter," a mimeographed information bulletin released by the AFL here, for pamphlets on the activities of American unionists, for statistics on wages and prices in the U. S.

Each month dozens of requests for help reach the AFL's European representative, to address union meetings. He has spoken in virtually every European country. He has been interviewed by scores of newspaper and magazine publishers here to supply them with articles on trade unionism in America.

An official of the Federation of Finnish Trade Unions, for example, wrote:

"In view of the fact that the writer has no other contacts with the American trade union movement, I have ventured to approach you with certain information and certain wishes on my own part. . . . .

A spokesman for the Greek Federation of Labor wrote:

"We have had the chance to read a very interesting pamphlet written by you, entitled 'The American Syndicalism and the International Problems' and we avail ourselves of the opportunity to request you to obligingly forward to us your pamphlet to be used for the purposes of our movement.

"We should also be obliged to be informed if we could have your permission to translate and publish the chief chapters of the above-named book so that your ideas may be known to a greater number of Greek syndicalists. . . . It would, also, be very comforting to us to have advised the good intentions of the American Federation of Labor for the amelioration, on a European and international scale, of the Greek syndicalist problems."

A Belgian lawyer asked:

"Could you send me the full text of President Truman's message to the AFL annual convention?"

The secretary-general of the Metal Workers Union, affiliated with Force Ouvriere, a free French trade union, wrote to thank Brown for 3 typewriters sent to him at our request by the AFL.

Austrian workers appealed to the European bureau for financial assistance to rebuild a rest home for workers' children.

One of them wrote:

"We know of more important matters in the world than this relatively little one . . . but it means very little for those people who have resisted Russian aggression and infiltration with admirable tenacity."

Union Industries Show Opens May 18th; Promises to be Most Successful Event

Cleveland.—The Union Industries Show, sponsored by the AFL Union Label Trades Department, will open here May 18, in the spacious Public Auditorium.

"It will be one of the most unique and action-packed exhibitions of its kind to be seen anywhere in the world," stated Director I. M. Ornburn. He will speak at the opening ceremonies with AFL President William Green, Frank J. Lausche, governor of Ohio, and Mayor Thomas A. Burke, of Cleveland.

"Throngs will get big thrills seeing 200 elaborately designed booths in which skilled AFL craftsmen actually make every article used and every service required in our daily lives," Mr. Ornburn said.

"They will view with awe the union-crafted goods, fabricated by big name firms, for every member of the family. The best of nationally advertised brands on display reads like a business directory. AFL unions as well as manufacturers are making an outstanding contribution to this show.

"The theme of the entire all-AFL union exhibition is good relations between labor and management." Director Ornburn declared, "and the spirit of such harmonious relations will be seen in the highest quality of workmanship displayed in booths teaming together they utilize the union label, shop card and button membership to reach all American consumers.

ILGWU VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES ITALIAN AWARD

New York.—Edward Mollenat, vice president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, received an award from the Italian government for his part in raising $1,500,000 for relief work in Italy.

He was presented with the Star of Solidarity, the most prized medal conferred by Italy upon noncitizens, by Italian Ambassador Alberto Tarchiani.

Accepting the award, Mollenat, who is manager of the Italian Chmil Makers Union, Local 48, pledged his union to continue Italian aid. He said:

"The war years have created in us a deep realization of the fact that each and every one of us is his brother's keeper."

AFL Leaders Endorse Drive For Soap For Europe's Thirty Million Children

New York.—International and local union leaders urged support of a plan sponsored by CARE, the nonprofit agency known to millions for its humanitarian aid to Europe's needy, by which Americans, at no cost to themselves, can provide sorely needed soap for European children.

Matthew Woll, AFL vice president and president of the Labor League for Human Rights, H. A. Bradley, president of AFL's International Chemical Workers Union, and local leaders called for support of the unique national drive which will help alleviate the extreme scarcity of soap.

The CARE soap campaign provides that for every two Swan soap wrappers sent to CARE, Detroit 31, Mich., CARE will guarantee delivery of a bar of Swan to needy children overseas. Paul Comly French, executive director of CARE, announced that Lever Brothers Co., of Cambridge, Mass., have promised to send the soap to CARE for this purpose.

Mr. Woll, on head of the Labor League for Human Rights, an affiliate of CARE, declared that the advancement of the health of European families striving to rebuild their countries and to restore free democratic trade unions is a project that has been close to the heart of the AFL for years.

"Through our Labor League for Human Rights, we have sent many shipments of food and clothing to textile packages abroad, and now we are glad that this project is to be supplemented by shipment of special packages of soap through CARE.

"We heartily recommend full participation in the campaign by all AFL unions."

Adding approval of the Swan-CARE campaign, Mr. Bradley, at the Akron, Ohio, headquarters of the ICW, declared: "This is a very worthy cause and my personal observation and experience in Europe convince me the value will be far reaching.

"Those of us who represent AFL union labor at Lever plants are glad to know that this project is to be supplemented by shipment of special packages of soap through CARE.

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"We heartily recommend full participation in the campaign by all AFL unions."

AFL BARTENDERS TO STUDY PUERTO RICAN RUM TRADE

New York.—Hugo Ernst, president of the AFL's Hotel and Restaurant Employes and Bartenders International Union, announced that a union representatives who are visiting Puerto Rico at the invitation of the Industrial Development Commission will:

The AFL bartenders' group will give a complete "inside the bottle" look at the rum industry, one of Puerto Rico's most important, and then will compare notes with Puerto Rican experts on the best uses for the product.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT OFF; MARCH DIP 4TH STRAIGHT

Washington.—Industrial production dropped in March for the fourth consecutive month and the downward is continuing, the federal reserve board reported.

March output, on the board's seasonally adjusted index, fell to 184 percent of the 1935-39 average, compared with 189 in February and 191 in March, 1948. The peak was 196 in October and November last year.

93,617 UNION OFFICIALS FILE NON-RED AFFIDAVITS

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board reported that 93,617 officials of national and local unions had on file current non-Communist affidavits on May 1, an increase of 8,706 over the previous month.

The 93,617 affidavits currently on file represent a total increase of 22 percent over the 76,297 who had filed as of May 1, 1948.

Filing of these affidavits brought 1,000 petitions for elections and 1,000 into full compliance with the affidavit and financial reporting requirements of the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947.

$23,375 FINES LEVIED FOR TRUST VIOLATION

Philadelphia.—The Philadelphia Wholesale Cleaners and Dyers Association, 19 corporations and 4 individuals pleaded guilty to antitrust charges and were fined a total of $23,375.

Specifically, the defendants were convicted of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act by fixing prices and allocating customers.

Three Employers Fined For Violations Of Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act

Atlanta.—The Bauer Pottery Co., Inc., paid into the U. S. District Court here $2,000 in settlement of liquidated damages found due by reason of the Walsh-Healey Act for violations of the Walsh-Healey public contracts act. The court in Rockhill, Va., on March 24, ordered the Dixie-Hodgins Co., Inc., to pay $27,822 in liquidated damages for violations of the labor and overtime provisions of the act in connection with a contract for government supply contracts amounting to approximately $400,000. The Public Contracts Act provides for liquidated damages of $10 per day for each minor illegally employed, $5 per day for overtime work in the government's complaint involved. The complaint charged that half the regular rate of pay for work performed 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week and failure to keep adequate and accurate employment records.

The third recent case of its kind in the southeastern region in which the government has collected liquidated penalties incurred under this law, Secretary of Labor Tobin announced today in more than $10,000.

The U. S. District Court in Norfolk, Va., on March 24, ordered the Dixie-Hodgins Co., Inc., to pay $27,822 in liquidated damages for violations of the labor and overtime provisions of the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act. The Public Contracts Act provides for liquidated damages of $10 per day for each minor illegally employed, $5 per day for overtime work in the government's complaint involved. The complaint charged that half the regular rate of pay for work performed 8 hours a day or 40 hours a week and failure to keep adequate and accurate employment records.

According to the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor, this was the

BRITISH COMMONS VOTES NATIONALIZATION OF STEEL

London.—The House of Commons by a vote of 327 to 276 has approved the controversial bill to nationalize the British iron and steel industry.

The key vote came on a proposal by the Conservative opposition to reject the bill. The motion lost 51 votes and the bill was "read" a third time. It now goes to the Lords.

Consideration of the measure by the Commons took more than a week-end debate. The Labor government's measure met bitter hostility from the opposition in the chamber.

The bill authorizes the government to buy up the stock of 107 companies at an estimated cost of $1,200,000,000. These companies, employing about 300,000 of the nation's 500,000 iron and steel workers are capitalized at $760,000,000.

Actual direction of the iron and steel business will be left in the hands of the men who now run it. They will work under a government holding corporation.

GREATER HEALTH BENEFITS WON BY AFM MUSICIANS

Philadelphia. — Members of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, Local 77 of the American Federation of Musicians, won new health benefits and higher travel allowances in a contract just completed between the 1949-50 season.

The new health clause grants musicians full pay for up to 4 weeks of illness, with increased pay for years of service with the orchestra. For the present season the additional week's pay is allowed.

HOUSE APPROVES BILL FOR HOUSING CENSUS

Washington.—The House passed, 222 to 81, a bill calling for a census of housing next year as part of the regular population count which comes every 10 years. The regular census is expected to cost $70,000,000. The bill sent to the Senate would add $15,000,000 to find out what kind of living quarters Americans have.

Frank Duffy is Honored For Long Service to Labor

New York.—Top leaders of the American Federation of Labor and 600 union officials attended the testimonial dinner tendered to Frank Duffy, general secretary emeritus of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and for 35 years secretary-treasurer of the union.

Among those honoring the services of Frank Duffy to America and the cause of organized labor were AFL President William Green, General Executive Board members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, Daniel W. Tuttle, secretary of the state federation of labor, and other public and labor spokesmen.

Frank Duffy, who died in 1948, was honored for the development of the brotherhood which, during his 48 years of tenure as general secretary, grew to a membership of more than 750,000 members in the United States and Canada. President Green also called attention to Frank Duffy's personal contributions to the labor movement and to public affairs which "now as after the first world war are matters of fundamental concern to American labor."

Toastmaster of the celebration, arranged by the New York Carpenters District Council, was Charles Johnson, international president and member of the brotherhood. President Charles W. Hanson of the New York Council presented the guest of honor with a handsomely engraved card and a leather-bound volume containing testimonial handicrafts from the 40 locals affiliated to the council.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Write Your Senators And Congressmen to Repeal T-H Law

This was reported by AFL President William Green who conferred with the Chief Executive on the eve of the opening session of the regular biennial convention of the AFL's executive council to be held in Cleveland.

Mr. Green said the President was "very optimistic" about getting a Taft-Hartley repealer through with only minor amendments and that he and the AFL were "completely in accord" in their opposition to the use of labor injunctions against labor unions.

Questioned by reporters following his discussion with Mr. Truman, Mr. Green reaffirmed the AFL's opposition to the injunction technique as provided in the Taft-Hartley law and in the Wood bill which the House sent back to committee for further consideration.

To handle labor disputes of an emergency character which affected the public interest, Mr. Green said the AFL would accept "reluctantly" the principle of government seizure of plants involved in such disputes.

Commenting on other possible changes in the proposed labor legislation lacked by the administration indicated a willingness on the part of the AFL to accept "minor" amendments. He said that possible amendments would include the non-Communist affidavit, provided it was made to apply to employers, and a reasonable provision protecting the right of free speech for both employers and employes.

The AFL leader said that the executive council at its meeting would consider ways and means to intensify its efforts to "influence Congress to our point of view."

Meanwhile, John Lesinski, chairman of the House labor committee, said that further discussion of a new labor bill was postponed for 2 weeks in an effort to compromise the views of some of the southern Democrats with administration leaders. He said the committee was still on hold for further hearings on labor legislation.

In the last week, labor rallied their strength in preparation for a determined battle in support of a bill introduced by Senator Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio) which would curb the use of injunctions against unions, retain the Taft-Hartley prohibition restricting boycotts on the part of unions, and leave unions open to crushing damage suits.

AMA Strategy in Health Fight Exposed; To Use Millions in Effort to Fool Public

Washington. — Published accounts of the strategy to be employed by the American Medical Association in its fighting the national health insurance program reveal that no holds will be barred by the AMA in spending its $3,500,000 war chest to wreck defeat of the plan to make medical care available for all.

The "Dallas Medical Journal," publication of the medical society in that community, spilled the beans with a detailed story of the campaign as mapped at a national conference held recently by the AMA in Chicago at which its $100,000-a-year publicity experts explained how to use the propaganda drive to sell the American public a bill of goods.

There are many shocking features in the plan. One is to get all the leading newspapers and magazines to publish propaganda articles against health insurance—and then to reprint these in vast quantities.

"We intend to work with the great newspapers and national magazines to get them to do special jobs, and that work is already well started," the document reveals. "Once an article has been printed in a magazine or newspaper of national importance, reprints of the article will be placed in the hands of key people, to be distributed throughout the country."

Even more brazen is the method by which the AMA hopes to prevent Congress from enacting a bill to provide the members of Congress. Here's how it suggests this be done:

"We need to locate the personal physician of every Congressman and every U. S. Senator and have him—the physician—send a personal letter to his patient, the Congressman, telling him of the danger of socialized medicine, and asking for his help in defeating any compulsory health insurance program which may be submitted."

Also, every doctor's office is to become a propaganda center against health insurance. Reproductions of a classic painting entitled "The Doctor" are to be displayed in each office. It shows a family physician at the bedside of a critically ill child.

To decrease the painting is a message in large type carrying the caption: "Keep Politics Out of This Picture." Completing distorting the picture, the document, the message declares:

"This would bring a third party—a politician—between you and your doctor. It would place the family's health in red tape. It would result in heavy payroll taxes and interfere mightily with your home and your family. Don't let this happen to you!"

That's one of the methods by which the "Medical Trust" hopes to deceive the people of America into believing that health insurance will harm them.

More methods will be described as the AMA are set forth in the document. They show that the $3,500,000 is to be used for one of the most vicious, unbridled and deceitful campaigns in the nation's history.

ILGWU Organizer Killed; Union Posts Big Reward

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for the AFL News Service

New York—He was this kind of a guy:

As a process server, a skilled trade, he averaged about $180 a week. As a special organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, William Lorye made $50 a week.

William Lorye didn't think twice about the money or the wife and 4 kids. When the ILGWU announced the union would have to put up some nonunion shops in New York City, William Lorye took a leave from his $180-a-week job and started to make the rounds of the city's dress market to sign up nonunion workers.

That's how he got his on the afternoon of May 9 in the lobby of a building in the garment center, in a building where William Lorye's organizing efforts had resulted in a strike. He got 5 bullets, still at large and unidentified, who stabbed him and left him dying. The next morning he was dead.

This was not the first time that ILGWU organizers had been attacked in New York City. Last September, Louis Nelson, manager of the Dress Joint Board of the union and beat up several organizers. William Lorye appointed himself bodyguard to the chief organizer and followed him around as his protector for months.

During the past year and more, the ILGWU, under the direction of Charles S. Zimmerman, a union vice president, has been seeking to size up nonunion shops. It's been rough going but as David Dubinsky, ILGWU president, said when William Lorye died:

The cause for which he died is beyond the power of threat, intimidation or even murder to stop. The ILGWU will, of course, cooperate to the fullest with public officers in hunting down the armed cowards and their paymasters who have now added murder to the other means by which they fight unionization."

To this end, the ILGWU posted a reward of $25,000 for the apprehension and conviction either of the instigators or actual perpetrators of this murder. And 65,000 ILGWU members stopped worked for 4 hours and marched through the streets of the garment district to the funeral parlor where which ended with a memorial mass meeting at Manhattan Center.

At ILGWU shops since 1926, William Lorye, who was 40 years old, was active in union and liberal circles. He lived with his family. His wife had received many threatening telephone calls recently.

What progress police were making in the apprehension of the culprits was not known. But September's assault of ILGWU organizers had produced no police results.

Truman Reported Optimistic Over Chance For T-H Repeal

Meany Bars Compromise on Injunction; Hails Growing Labor Strength in House

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Hinting at the Taft-Hartley law which restored government by injunction, Mr. Meany said labor's opposition to the injunctive process stems from the belief in the freedom guaranteed by the constitution which, he said, is superior to any statute. The LaGuardia Act in 1932, were freedom from the menace of anti-labor injunctions.

The AFL leader reviewed labor's position during a recording prepared for Labor's League for Political Education for distribution to local radio stations throughout the country.

Commenting on the action taken by the House in recommitting the Wood bill, which would have perpetuated the injunctive process, Mr. Meany declared:

"The vote to pass the Wood bill and its subsequent recommittal to the House Committee on Labor proves, in a nutshell, that nothing forward looking was accomplished. We are very disappointed, we are by no means discouraged.

"On the contrary, the vote to recommit indicates that Labor's League for Political Education has done a very effective job in getting friends members of the House to the trite attitude of the workers of our nation toward the Taft-Hartley law. While the reactionary coalition of anti-labor forces in the House is still very strong it is plainly evident that there has been a definite change since the action was taken on the Taft-Hartley Act 2 years ago.

"At that time this vicious anti-labor law was passed by a House vote of 331-83. The vote on both the Wood bill and the Hoffman motion to recommit that bill after it had been passed indicated that labor now has more than 200 friends in the House of Representatives.

"We have every hope and expectation that this condition will increase to the extent necessary to insure the passage of a labor bill at this session which will be fair and impartial to both labor and management and which will at the same time protect the basic human rights of our nation's wage earners."

Mr. Meany declared that action in the House of Representatives will serve to spur LLPE on to greater efforts in 1950. He asserted:

"One important result of the activity in the House is the clear-cut thinking which has been forced to be drawn between those who believe in free trade unions and a free way of life in government domination and those who do not. This will be a great value to the league in determining its policy on the election year of the House who stand for reelection in 1950."

Green Says AFL Will Consider Changes of Minor Nature

Washington. — President Truman continues to stand firm behind his demands for new labor legislation to supplement the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

This was reported by AFL President William Green who conferred with the Chief Executive on the eve of the opening session of the regular biennial convention of the AFL's executive council to be held in Cleveland.

Mr. Green said the President was "very optimistic" about getting a Taft-Hartley repealer through with only minor amendments and that he and the AFL were "completely in accord" in their opposition to the use of labor injunctions against labor unions.

Questioned by reporters following his discussion with Mr. Truman, Mr. Green reaffirmed the AFL's opposition to the injunction technique as provided in the Taft-Hartley law and in the Wood bill which the House sent back to committee for further consideration.

To handle labor disputes of an emergency character which affected the public interest, Mr. Green said the AFL would accept "reluctantly" the principle of government seizure of plants involved in such disputes.

Commenting on other possible changes in the proposed labor legislation lacked by the administration indicated a willingness on the part of the AFL to accept "minor" amendments. He said that possible amendments would include the non-Communist affidavit, provided it was made to apply to employers, and a reasonable provision protecting the right of free speech for both employers and employes.

The AFL leader said that the executive council at its meeting would consider ways and means to intensify its efforts to "influence Congress to our point of view."

Meanwhile, John Lesinski, chairman of the House labor committee, said that further discussion of a new labor bill was postponed for 2 weeks in an effort to compromise the views of some of the southern Democrats with administration leaders. He said the committee was still on hold for further hearings on labor legislation.

In the last week, labor rallied their strength in preparation for a determined battle in support of a bill introduced by Senator Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio) which would curb the use of injunctions against unions, retain the Taft-Hartley prohibition restricting boycotts on the part of unions, and leave unions open to crushing damage suits.

AFL Men Discuss Methods In Fight on Discrimination

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—"If We Must Problems of Discrimination Within Our Unions" was the title of just 1 of the 6 panel sessions conducted separately at the recent AFL Conference to Combat Intolerance, sponsored by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

It was crowded in the Hotel Sherman's Gray Room as Nick DePietro, panel chairman, led off with a recital of the printers' experiences with integration of racial groups.

DiPietro traced the historical pattern of employment in Chicago industry, showing how employers brought in strange, new national groups to break strikes in the early days of labor organization.

He read from a study by the Illinois Interracial Commission, a neutral organization, which described the present discriminatory practices by the employer, secondly on commercial employment agencies and thirdly on labor unions.

"The purpose of this panel is not to chastise any union," said DePietro, "but to indicate how local unions can help themselves and to help those who are meeting the issue of discrimination to learn from those who already have met it."

A printer who spoke up from the floor recalled how a Polish newspaper publisher's resistance to hiring a negro typesetter was overcome when the union's agent called attention to the possibility that Polish printers would have a hard time finding work on the Irish-governed Chicago papers if negotiation were made difficult.

DePietro introduced Anthony C. D'Andrea, president of the hod carriers' district council, who described the integration of his union's locals. They include all racial and nationality groups and permit no segregation.

"But we do have trouble with the employer," said D'Andrea. "If an employing contractor wants to hire laborers of the Negro race, sometimes we can't stop him. For that reason, there are many of our negro members having trouble finding employment."

Jim Gilker, assistant research director for the meat cutters' international, was the third panel member. He said his international requires all members to take an oath that they will never discriminate against a fellow worker for reasons of race, creed or color. Violation should result in such action, said Gilker thought.

Prof. Louis Wirth, of the University of Chicago criticized the labor movement in general for weakness in approach to the subject of racial prejudice.

"It is morning," he said, "it is time to get up," and Martin H. Loftis, publicity, another speaker at the conference) say that you can't legislate against discrimination. The fault goes deeper. You can legislate against the people's minds, but you can legislate against discrimination in job opportunities and employment. The law can enforce minimum standards, as it does in wages."

It was agreed generally there should be more extensive education inside local unions on the problem of discrimination. Delegates voted unanimously for: (1) a standing committee to combat discrimination, and (2) organization of standing committees in local unions.

Committee Backs Public Housing Bill; Measure Broader Than Senate Version

Washington.—The House Banking and Currency Committee approved and administration public housing bill on a straight party vote of 14 to 7.

It is expected that the House will act on the measure within a week or 10 days.

The bill, if enacted in its present form, would authorize construction by local public housing authorities of 1,050,000 low-rent dwelling units in the 7 years beginning next July 1. A total of $10,000,000,000 in grants spread over a 40-year period, would be authorized to supplement local receipts in financing the projects.

Loans of $1,000,000,000 and grants of $500,000,000 would be made available for a 5-year slum-clearance program, with local communities to pay one-third of the cost.

Aid to farm owners for improvements in dwellings and in outbuildings would be extended through loans and grants of $257,000,000.

The bill calls also for a national housing research program under the Housing and Home Finance Administrator, with emphasis on low-cost housing, improving methods and materials and standardizing building costs.

The census director would be directed to take a census of housing every 10 years.

Even if passed by the House in its present form, the measure is believed to have no chance of being enacted into law this session. The public housing provisions, since it must then be acted on by a Senate-House conference committee for adjustment of differences between it and the Senate bill.

The Senate voted to limit the public housing program to 810,000 units, as compared with the 1,050,000 provided in the next 6 years, as compared with 810,000 units in 7 years. Federal grants to help finance that program would be limited to $12,222,000,000 as against the $10,000,000,000 in the House committee's figure of $16,000,000,000.

Maximum annual grants under the Senate bill would be $308,000,000, as compared with $400,000,000 under the House measure.

The Senate was less liberal also in specifying the rents which are allowable for public housing construction per year.

Big Co-op Housing Project OK'd by IBEW, Employers

New York.—Plans for a $20,000,000 apartment cooperative housing project sponsored jointly by Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and electrical employers' association, have been announced here.

The project, the biggest of its type, is intended primarily for the 28,500 members of the union but accommodations are to be open to the general public as well.

Cooperative ownership of the 2,000 apartments in the project will be possible with low down payments and monthly charges. The latter will include monthly charges for mortgage amortization charges, repairs and operating expenses at about $16 a room. Tenant-owners would be expected to be reduced to $12.50 a room for the life of the 40-year mortgages, according to Mark Starkman, chairman of the housing commission, who has approved the project.

Commissioner Starkman said the cost of the apartments to the owners, Mr. Stichman predicted that it would be about 40 percent under present rents for comparable apartments in the city.

"Labor will no longer take the blame for high building costs," said the commissioner. "Labor will build its own homes and will finance their families at prices they can afford to pay. They have waited too long for the private builder to solve the housing problem. Cooperative good homes can be built at reasonable prices if there is a will to do it on the part of all the interests involved," Mr. Stichman said.

Private builders should realize that if they do not speedily meet the demand of labor for low-priced housing, families for homes which they can afford, the people who need housing will join in other cooperative projects and also build them.

The commissioner added that the project will accomplish the following: Give labor a direct voice in the housing field; prove that cooperatives can provide good housing; give labor an added interest in bringing down the cost of living; give employers a stable labor force; and provide trades workers at a time when they are not fully employed; encourage the training of more apprentices; and show the public how their own costs through the example set by the labor-employer cooperative.

Union Industries Show Opens May 18; Flint Glass Workers' Display a Feature

Cleveland.—Preparations were rushed here for the opening of the May 18 of the 1949 Union Industries Show destined to be the biggest and most successful of its kind ever sponsored by the AFL's Union Label Trades Department.

Manufacturers of union label goods, suppliers of union label services, and many AFL unions readied their displays for the enjoyment and education of the expected thousands who will thronge the huge Cleveland auditorium for the 5-day exhibition.

Representative of the exhibits is that of the American Flint Glass Workers Union of North America which will show the products of some of the world's most highly skilled glass craftsmen.

The theme of the exhibit will be to promote interest in American-made glassware, stabilization of the industry and making more secure the opportunities in the American glassworker.

The display of handmade table and ornamental ware includes a representative line of beautiful glass, crystal clear, transparent as a mountain stream or glowing with gayety like tones of emerald green, amber, ruby red or amethyst, all the work of artists in glass blowing.

There will also be on display commercial glassware, television tubes and bulbs, electronic ware, industrial and other items, now being produced by glassworkers, including machine cutters, mould makers, lamp workers and decorators, all of whom are founded in early Colonial times, in 1607.

IATSE LOCAL CERTIFIED AS BARGAINING AGENT

New York.—The Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board certified Local No. B-100 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employes as collective bargaining agent for ushers, doormen, ushers, cleaners, porters and matrons in Pittsburgh motion picture theaters.

Action follows a recent election in which the workers chose the local by a more than 2-to-1 vote over District 50 of the United Mine Workers of America.

Local B-100 plans to begin negotiations for new contracts in the near future and will demand pay increases retroactive to last August 1, the date its old contracts expired. Talks which extended into last winter were broken off when the union's jurisdiction was challenged.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY TAKES ELECTION SETBACK

London.—The Labor party appeared to have suffered another electoral setback this week in the local elections in nation-wide municipal elections.

Returns from 4 of the local elections, the Laborites admitted a net loss of 200 seats. They admitted, too, the Conservatives had gained the majority in four others.

Jubilant Conservatives, visualizing a repeat of their amazing triumph in the London county council elections last year, hailed the results as a gain of 546 seats and a net loss of 474 for the Laborites.

The Conservatives also claimed to have won two London boroughs from the Labor party of the 10 thus far counted with a net gain of 77 seats.

STATE GASOLINE TAXES NEAR $1½ BILLION IN '48

Washington. — Automobile owners plunked out $1,342,000,000 in state taxes for the gasoline they consumed last year, the Public Roads Administration announced.

California led all states with 2,846,781,000 gallons consumed in 1948, while New York was second with 2,081,216,000. Pennsylvania was third with 1,861,611,000 gallons.

The average gasoline tax per gallon for all states, according to the report, was 4.35 cents in 1948, compared with 4.28 in 1947.

APRIL FARM EMPLOYMENT UP

Washington. — Farm employment reached 7,950,000 in April, last month was 4 percent under a year ago, the Agriculture Department reports. Farm employment was put at 11,- 369,000 for the week ended April 23. Of this total, 2,611,000 were hired workers.

BULK OF U. S. INDUSTRY LOCATED IN 10 STATES

Washington.—Despite wartime dispersion of industry, the bulk of the nation's postwar industrial establishment is concentrated in 10 states, the Census Bureau reported.

The top 10 states, ranked in terms of value added to raw materials by the manufacturing process during 1947, are New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey, California, Massachusetts, Indiana and Wisconsin. These states accounted at that ranking as a result of its 1947 census of manufacturers, the first in 8 years.

SECURITY FOR DUTCH FARMERS

Washington.—The Dutch are putting a special version of a farm workers' pension plan into effect. Ultimately, according to Dutch information here, the Dutch government hopes to provide 200,000 aged workers with the equivalent of about $82 a month after age 65.

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Air Force Adopts New Plan To Provide Racial Equality

Washington.—The United States Air Force adopted new racial policies designed to "assure equality of treatment and opportunity for all members of its personnel."

The new policy, announced by Defense Secretary Louis Johnson, provides for utilizing "manpower resources on the basis of individual capacity" rather than their assignment to special type units only.

In effect, declared Johnson, it will end segregation as a general policy within the Air Force and substitute a policy of integration. Some units, however, may continue to be manned solely with negroes, he said.

As a first step to carry out the new policy, the all-negro 332d Fighter Wing, based at Lockbourne Air Force Base, Columbus, Ohio, will be deactivated. Its personnel will be reassigned on an individual basis. This is the only USAF negro combat outfit, and the great majority of pilots and other highly skilled specialists in the unit are negroes.

Secretary Johnson also announced that he is studying reports received from the Army and Navy regarding their racial policies. He said he had called upon those services for elaboration of their practices and future policies before "reaching a decision" in the matter.

This "clarifying" information must be submitted by May 25, he said.

Early last month the Defense Secretary called upon the 3 services to reexamine their personnel policies and to propose steps to carry out President Truman's executive order calling for the end of racial discrimination and segregation in the armed forces at the earliest practicable date.

The Air Force, in complying with the Johnson order, outlined the plan now being followed by the Navy regarding Negroes. It said those close to the situation, largely temporized on the question.

Personal Income Rate Down in March Because of Wage and Salary Declines

Washington.—The annual rate of income payments to individuals has dropped to its lowest point this year in March, according to the Department of Commerce.

The level for that month, $214,300,- 000,000, was down from the $215,600,- 000,000 rate of February and the $216,- 000,000 rate of January.

The reduction from the high of $221,000,000,000 rate of last December was 3 percent, but the annual rate of personal income for March was still 4 percent above March, 1948, according to the Commerce Business Economics of the department.

The March decline was due chiefly to declines in wages and salaries, the largest item of personal income, and in receipts of owners of farms and unincorporated business. Transfers were partly offset, however, by increases in nonfarm proprietors' income and benefits.

Personal income estimates include wage and salary receipts, the net income of agricultural, business, professional, farm and nonfarm; dividends and interest; net rents received by landlords, and other types of individual income.

Most of the reduction in wage and salary receipts during March was attributed to the 3-day industrial week of the work week in many manufacturing plants. The annual rate of these receipts was $132,400,000,000 in March as compared with $134,800,000,000 in February. In addition to manufacturing payroll declines also occurred in construction, trade and agriculture.

Personal income during the first quarter of 1949 was at the annual rate of $215,100,000,000, a slight decrease from the rate of $207,000,000,000 for the fourth quarter of 1948. The first quarter was slightly below the fourth quarter rate of $213,600,000,000 for 1948.

The personal income of government employes in March was at the annual rate of $19,300,000,000, the same as in February and $100,000,000 more than in January, the Commerce report said.

Total employment in the yards on March 21 was estimated at 96,425, compared with an average of 96,500 expected for the year 1949-50, navy figures showed. The shipyard at New York, although the largest, with a March 31 employment roll of 12,280, will be cut the least. Employment there is expected to average about 12,200 in the next fiscal year. By July 1 the yard probably will be employing about 12,200.

RURAL POWER AGENCY CITES PROGRESS MADE

Washington.—The Rural Electrification Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported its 14th anniversary here by reporting progress in the 1948 fiscal year. It reported that 700,000 to 4,362,000— from 3.1 percent to 22.8 percent—as of January 1, 1949. A majority of the borrowers, however, are served by REA-financed borrowers. Other suppliers, according to a recent activity on a result of the REA lending program, serve the remainder.

"In spite of this progress," Administrator Claude R. Wickard reported, "about 1,500,000 American farms remain without service; and even where service is available in many cases it has not been extended to farm families to keep pace with the rapidly increasing needs of the farm families. Most of the farms and other rural homes without central station service are those most difficult to serve because of the sparseness or shortage in rural areas and because of certain economic or geographic factors.

NAVY PLANS REDUCTION IN U. S. SHIPYARD JOBS

Washington.—The navy plans to reduce employment in naval shipyards by about 10,000 during the next fiscal year beginning July 1, according to information here.

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AFL TRANSIT WORKERS ACCEPT 6-CENT PAY HIKE

Scranton, Pa.—Employes of the Scranton Transit Company returned to work on jobs of interest following settlement of a dispute over wages.

Members of the AFL Amalgamated Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America voted to accept a new contract calling for a wage rise of 6 cents an hour and an increase in monthly pension rates from $55 to $65.

Under the new agreement, the company's operations receive $1.27 an hour and maintenance men from $1.33 to $1.45.